The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 11. NO. 13. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1921. WHOLE NO. 533.

"POLICE POWER OF STATE" IS NO DEFENSE FOR SLAVERY.

The Kansas supreme court has upheld Governor Allen's "can't-strike" law on the theory that the act "is a valid exercise of the police power of the state" and that it does not violate the federal constitution, which prohibits involuntary servitude.

This use of a state's police power indicates the length some courts will go if special interests were unchallenged in its manufacture of an artificial public opinion.

Health laws, the destruction of diseased food, protection of public morality and all forms of social legislation and regulation are functions of police power of the state.

This power has never been rigidly defined. Courts decline to set its limitations, for the very good reason that it rests on education, experience and the people's welfare.

It is a common-sense fiction that must be supported by a strong, solid, enlightened public opinion before courts apply it.

In short, the police power of a state legalizes what the public as a whole accept.

The Kansas supreme court now declares that the "can't-strike" law can stand this test. The court necessarily gets into deeper water when it takes this position, and rules that it is not involuntary servitude when workers are jailed if they quit their employment.

It seems incredible that a supreme court would say this law is sustained by public opinion, as understood and defined.

This view might be expected from a police magistrate or a village justice of the peace, whose viewpoints are limited to their jurisdictions and to the views of secret political backers.

A state supreme court, however, is not supposed to ignore facts. This court is blind to the unanimous rejection of "can't-strike" laws by every other legislature that has been asked to approve same.

It overlooks opposition to the law in its own state, where organized labor, organized farmers and an increasing number of business men refuse to accept the act.

It takes no notice of hostility of many Kansas legislators and the growing conviction of thinking Kansas citizens that the act was inspired by big business, and that the numerous increases in rates charged by public utility corporations sustain their suspicion.

The court failed to balance these facts against the tom tom beating of Allen cohorts, the sophistry of special interests and the shrieks of its venal press.

The Kansas state supreme court has failed to interpret sound public opinion of that state and when the "can't-strike" law is repealed this estimate will be verified.

Labor can hasten this day by greater agitation for human liberty and social justice.

The police power of the state is an educational process that wage earners must assist in developing. This power must never be used against human liberty.

It must not be a defense for slavery.

If this educational process is surrendered to special privilege and its political agents, decisions like the present one will result.

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

Labor Urged To Greater Activity

Denver, June 18.—In a rallying call to the trade union movement, the A. F. of L. executive council made these opening declarations in its annual report:

"The American trade union movement has just gone through a year of unexampled struggle and difficulty. A great part of the effort of our movement during that time has been defensive, but we may well say that labor has conducted a triumphant defense.

"The enemies of labor and of human progress have assailed from every side. The movement for the reduction of wages, the movement to crush our organizations, masquerading under the fictitious 'open shop' slogan, the wave of unemployment and, perhaps most sinister of all, the revival as a part of the general anti-labor campaign of the vicious, enslaving individual contract by which workers are bound to their employers have been massed and concentrated against the most potential voluntary movement of the wage earners of our country. Added to these have been legislative assaults and court decisions most destructive in character.

"The coming year must be a year of progress. The blight of reactionary effort has bitten as deeply as possible. It has been checked. We must always expect and tolerate constructive criticism, but we can not and must not fold our arms under the fire of wantonly destructive movements directed by greed and avarice. Our movement everywhere must now rally to a militant offense against the powers that have sought our ruin. We call upon the workers everywhere to open our new year with an energy for constructive, progressive work, with a consecration to the ideals and purposes of our movement, to the end that there may be a more complete realization of those ideals and purposes in our time.

"We have checked the progress of those who have sought to destroy freedom through the annihilation of the organizations of labor. In the coming year we must make sure beyond all chance or doubt the stability and supremacy of the democratic ideals of the trade union movement.

"We call for a great rallying, a great unity, a great movement forward for humanity. The message of trade unionism must be carried to every corner. Our membership must be built beyond all records; our purpose must be to act in harmony and with supreme courage and energy. Ours is an inspiring movement, worthy of the devotion of all freedom-loving men and women. Like a mighty army of liberation let us go forward for the deliverance and enrichment of human life. Our faces must be set toward the future, undauntedly and with renewed courage and energy."

SALES TAX FAILS.

New York, June 18.—Writing from Ottawa on the Canadian sales tax, the special correspondent of the Annalist, financial paper published in this city, says:

"Canada's experience, to date, would not justify expectations that the sales tax warrants the abandonment of other fruitful and definitely ascertained sources of revenue.

"For Americans possibly the chief lesson of the Canadian sales tax experiment is that the revenue expected cannot be secured from a 1 per cent rate collected solely on commodities with anything like a reasonable exemption list."

In answer to the claim that the tax can be "easily collected," the correspondent says "that the extent to which the tax is now being collected in Canada is bound to make it an important political issue, and that of an especially dangerous kind just now, when appeals to class consciousness are so effective."

TWO EXECUTIVES DIE.

New York, June 18.—John Golden, president of the United Textile Workers, died in this city after an illness of several weeks. Deceased was chief executive of the textile workers for 20 years. In 1917 he represented the A. F. of L. at the British Trades Union Congress.

Denver, June 18.—Milton Snellings, president of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, died suddenly in this city while in attendance at the annual convention of the A. F. of L. Deceased was chief executive of the engineers for six years.

STEEL MILLS DOWN.

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 18.—It is stated that the steel trust is operating on a basis of 25 per cent of its production and that independent mills have fallen below 20 per cent. This statement must be of interest to unorganized steel workers who were told that their recent 20 per cent wage reduction would re-establish prosperity.

GET $1 AN HOUR.

New Haven, Conn., June 18.—Bricklayers and plasterers have raised wages 5 cents an hour. The old rate was 95 cents.

BLOCK WEST VIRGINIA PROBE.

Washington, June 18.—A probe of mining conditions in certain sections of West Virginia was postponed by senatorial oratory that made scant attempt to conceal opposition to the plan.

The resolution was presented by Senator Johnson. West Virginia coal owners profess friendship for the probe, but certain senators who are not unfriendly to big business suddenly awoke to the need for economy. They also deplored the tendency of "federal interference."

Senator Johnson insisted that sections of West Virginia maintain a supergovernment in defiance of the federal constitution, and that anarchy is along the Tug river, which divides Kentucky and West Virginia. The talk continued until the time for unfinished business when the resolution was laid over.

SPLIT ON WAR END.

Washington, June 18. — Both branches of congress favor resolutions that war has ended, but there are wide differences on the language to be used.

Six weeks ago the senate passed the Knox resolution which repeals the declaration of war against Germany and Austria. The house takes the position that this resolution constitutes a mild repudiation of the declarations of war, and has passed the Porter resolution, which declares that the war with Germany and Austria is at an end.

DEFEAT ANTI-STRIKE BILL.

Hartford, Conn., June 18.—By a vote of 25 to 5 the state senate defeated a "can't-strike" bill that had been approved by the house. Senators declared that the act would foment strikes and that it was an attempt to coerce labor. One senator frankly stated that its passage would be bad politics and would imperil his party's success at the next election.

WILL COAL OWNERS SCARE?

Washington, June 18.—At a conference of coal owners and government officials, Secretary of the Interior Fall warned these business men that "sooner or later you must find yourself in competition with the government" if you do not co-operate.

COURT USURPATION MENACES DEMOCRACY

Denver, June 18.—The power of courts to set aside laws is a menace to democratic government, says the A. F. of L. executive council in its annual report.

The council favors an amendment to the constitution which will take from the courts the right to make these decisions where a law has been passed by a majority of congress, or where, when vetoed by the president, it is re-passed by a two-thirds vote of each house.

"The constitution of the United States does not give courts the authority to set aside these laws," says the council. "It has been assumed by them. The history of the supreme court of the United States is replete with reactionary opinion.

"Its decision in the Dred Scott case brought on the civil war. In the Argo case it decided that the seamen could not leave a ship in safe harbor. It declared invalid the 10-hour law for bakers, the child labor law, convict labor law and many other laws passed by congress in the interest of the people. The most persistent argument labor must meet in advocating remedial legislation is that the supreme court will declare it unconstitutional.

"The anti-trust laws have been interpreted by the courts against labor and labor alone. The supreme court, in passing on a law intended to curb the evils of combinations of capital applied a so-called 'rule of reason' to them that was never intended by congress. On the other hand, instead of applying the 'rule of reason' in cases where workers are concerned it has placed most burdensome restrictions.

"The members of the supreme court are appointed for life by the president. It has the power and can annul any law enacted that has been demanded by circumstances and by the people as represented by the combined wisdom of a majority of each house of congress, or by two-thirds of each house over a veto by the president."

WHY BANKS PROSPER.

New York, June 18.—Why banks prosper could be the title of an educational act staged by the Lockwood building investigating committee. In probing financial institutions, and their connection with the building industry, it was shown that one loan of $295,000 was paid in Liberty bonds at their face value. When the bank was called upon to cash the bonds it subtracted $15,000 to cover the difference between the face value and the market value. In addition, the borrower paid 6 per cent interest on the full amount. The property on which the mortgage was given for that loan was appraised at $492,000, and the borrower paid a total of $25,000 to get the loan. Of that sum $15,000 went to the bank, $6,567.75 was brokers' commission and the rest was consumed by a title company and lawyer.

The Lockwood committee showed that it was the practice of a Brooklyn bank to give the borrower a check for the loan and then he would immediately indorse and return the check to the bank, which would honor it with Liberty bonds of an equal face value, but with a market value of less than $90 for every $100.

PUBLIC BEING DOPED.

Denver, June 18.—Building contractors who demand wage reductions and ignore the building material man are doping the public, said Secretary-Treasurer Spencer, of the A. F. of L. building trades department, in his annual report.

"There can be no justice in any agitation to reduce the price of labor while building materials are ascending to higher levels, evidence of which are painfully evident in many staples and specialties, some higher than war time prices," the unionist said. "The prices of some materials are down, but there is no guarantee that they will not go up immediately the boom in building gets under real headway.

"When the contractors aim solely at a reduction of wages, and suffer material dealers the enjoyment of unlimited latitude, they are taking part in a monumental game of opera bouffe for the purpose of doping the prospective house owner or builder."

FEW CONTROL COMPANY.

New York, June 18.—The 15 directors of the Prudential Insurance company annually elect themselves, according to testimony before the Lockwood building investigating committee.

There are 15,000,000 policy holders in the company and the directors win by holding proxies for the small proportion of policy holders who share even indirectly in the election.

Since 1915 but one policy holder has attended in person a policyholders' meeting. He wanted to have the undivided surplus of the company divided among the stockholders. It was shown that millions of the company's surplus is deposited in banks in which the president of the company is a heavy stockholder. Other officers of the company are financially interested in these banks.

PROFITEER IN SHOES.

Washington, June 18.—In predicting a decline in leather and shoe prices, the federal trade commission says that high prices of shoes during 1918-1919 resulted from "abnormal conditions of supply and demand, both economical and psychological, arising out of the war."

"Incident to these conditions," says the commission, "were large margins of profits taken by tanners, shoe manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers and retailers," whose large earnings were "out of all proportion to the increase in their unit cost."

OPPOSE POLICE EDICT.

New Orleans, June 18.—Trade unionists are making vigorous protest against a "work or jail" edict by Superintendent of Police Molony. The order is aimed at striking seamen.

P. O. CLERKS TO MEET.

Washington, June 18.—Officers of the National Federation of Postal Clerks have issued the call for the annual convention of this organization to be held in Minneapolis, beginning September 6.

WORKERS SHOW FRAUD IN RAIL MANAGEMENT

Denver, June 18.—Despite a hostile press and Wall street influence, organized railroad shop employes have exposed railroad fraud, says John Scott, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, in his annual report.

"Back to normalcy,' he says, "has decreed that the national agreement must be abrogated because it is the will of the dominating interests in Wall street mouthed by a minority group of railroad executives headed by Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad. This in face of the fact that we have turned the tables upon them in defense of the national agreement, exposing gigantic fraud, inefficient management and deliberate extravagance aggregating many millions of dollars in the first instance to discredit government control of the railroads and secondly to be used as propaganda in misrepresentation of facts to secure the cancellation of the national agreement.

"We feel justly proud of the task accomplished within the limited time and but for the usual handicap of being denied the publicity of the press, feel assured that with the full facts before the public, exposing as we have the most gigantic conspiracy, public sentiment would have, ere this time, demanded the prompt release of the railroads from the hands of these human vultures.

"The uncertainties of the future as to the policy of the railroads, and the early realization of what can be expected from the present administration in Washington, seems to give ample assurance that the work of this department will not be lessened during the coming year, but we also feel assured that this awakening will, in due time, show beneficial results."

"CANT-STRIKE" LAW FAILS.

Denver, June 18.—The Kansas court of industrial relations act is an admitted failure, says the A. F. of L. executive council in its annual report.

"Although loudly heralded by its author, Governor Allen, as an instrument to tie men to their jobs, he has been unable to make the people of Kansas or any other state accept it as a guide in legislation. The law has proved to be not only ineffective in averting cessations of work, but it has been rejected by all fair-minded citizens as un-American.

"Although Governor Allen and his satellites traveled far and wide, and pleaded with legislators to enact a similar law, not a state legislature, after analyzing the act, would approve of its provisions.

"From the enactment of the law up to February last, 285 orders were signed by the court granting rate increases to public service corporations.

"Despite the law, strikes have been numerous in Kansas. These occurred in the coal fields, on the railroads, and in the packing houses. There were at least 20 strikes, but aside from the president of the Kansas district of the United Mine Workers and three district board members of the miners, no attempt was made to punish any of the workers who participated in them.

"Not only are the workers and farmers opposed to the law, but many employers refuse to recognize it."

REJECT COMPANY "UNION."

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., June 18.—The Lehigh Valley railroad's company "union" has been given a hard wallop.

Ballots were distributed among the workers, who were asked to indicate their preference for their respective trade unions or a "union" that the company invented.

A count of ballots show that the trade unions are favored by 98 per cent of the employes.

The machinists' vote was 1,463 to 30 for the trade unions; boilermakers, 422 to 8; blacksmiths, 183 to 5; electricians, 100 to 3; sheet metal workers, 78 to 1; railway carmen, 1,579 to 40.

The vote was so emphatic that President Loomis has publicly stated that "the Lehigh Valley will be equally fair with those who voted in favor of national union representation and those who chose to handle their own affairs."

The sting in the last part of the announcement indicates that the defeat of the company "union" is a bitter dose.

BAKERS NOT ENJOINED.

Spokane, Wash., June 18.—Judge Webster has refused to enjoin organized bakers from circulating literature against anti-union shops. The bosses claim this procedure is part of a "conspiracy to destroy their business." The union showed that the employers are running large advertisements in the local press. In denying the injunction, Judge Webster said:

"It is within the rights of the union to circulate statements of their side of the controversy. It would be unjust to let one side and not the other follow such a course. The public is entitled to it."

BUDGET BILL SIGNED.

Washington, June 18.—President Harding has signed the budget bill. Under this system a new department of government will prepare a budget for the various departments and expenditures will hereafter be supposed to have some regard for the nation's income. There is nothing in the law which denies congress the right to pass appropriations not in the budget.

O'CONNOR APPOINTED.

Washington, June 18.—The president has appointed T. V. O'Connor member of the United States shipping board.

The appointee is president of the International Longshoremen's association. He was recently appointed a member of the New York state industrial commission by Governor Miller, but resigned after serving two weeks.

CULINARY WORKERS GAIN.

Fresno, Cal., June 18.—The Culinary Workers' union has renewed its agreement with hotel and restaurant men. Chief cooks will be paid $7.50 a day; other cooks, $5.50; counter waiters and waitresses, $4, with overtime $1 an hour. A rate of $3 a day will be paid pantry employes.

LIBERTY'S BULWARK IS ORGANIZED LABOR

Denver, June 18.—The economic movement of the workers is the best defense of their liberties, declared James Lord, president of the A. F. of L. mining department, in his annual report.

In vigorous terms the unionist scored bourbon influences and insisted that but for organized labor conditions in America would equal the worst situation that now exists in the old world.

"There is a general cry on the part of the bourbons and their harlots of the press and platform for wage reductions, the lengthening of the work day and the breaking down of well-established conditions of labor," he said. "In the face of all this reaction, of plots hatched in the injunction field, the legislatures, and in chambers of commerce, it must occur to all who are not entirely blind to their affairs, that if the labor movement did nothing else, under the circumstances, than prevent these baneful interests from driving us backward, from taking any more of our liberties away, it would even then be worthy, a hundred fold, of all the finance and effort we put into it.

"No investment ever made by mortal man brings such results as does the investment of money and effort in the economic effort of the workers. It is my conviction that but for the trade union movement in this country at this particular time, our country would be rocked by anarchy and chaos that would equal the worst situation now existing in the old world.

"With all due regard to well-meaning statesmen and liberators outside the movement, the sheet anchor of all our liberties, and our opportunities for the future, is the economic movement and power of the workers, throughout this distressed world.

"There never was a time in our history when intelligent, united and vigorous effort and protest was demanded more of the men and women who do the useful work of our country than now. Smaller differences must be swept aside in this fight for the salvation and promotion of the rights of man.

"In spite of this tremendous marshalling of the forces of reaction, the trade unions have served the workers splendidly."

CLEAR-HEADED UNION GIRL.

Boston, June 18.—Julia S. O'Connor, president of the telephone operators' department of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has this to say of the coming convention of that organization:

"The chief productive value of such a gathering as our convention comes on its educational, its inspirational side. The vitality and resourcefulness of the labor movement lies in its spiritual appeal. You may join a union because you want such material things as higher wages and shorter hours, but if out of this association with your fellows there grows no appreciation of the labor movement as a cause—a cause to serve which is to serve humanity—you have failed to get the best and most out of your union membership. It is in the fostering and developing of this spirit that a convention must find its largest worth.

"Send your best material to the convention. Reckon the expense as an investment, as your contribution to further organization and progress. Some other group of workers, some time, made a sacrifice that you might be organized. Pass your advantages on. Be represented at St. Louis and be represented by the delegate or delegates best qualified to understand and interpret our ideals of organization and of service."

BURLESONISM JOLTED.

Washington, June 18.—Postmaster General Hays has jolted Burlesonism and post office autocracy by this order:

"Postmasters are authorized to grant hearings to employes or representatives of employes who may so desire in connection with the remedying of local conditions in the service which are in the interest of the postal service and the welfare of the employes, and to take such action as may meet with their approval and be within their authority to correct.

"If departmental action is necessary to change practices or policies, or to correct abuses, or if the postmaster is in doubt as to the procedure in the circumstances, prompt report of all the facts should be made to the proper bureau officer with appropriate recommendations.

"No discrimination should be made in favor of any particular individual employe, any particular group of employes, or any particular organization, but all should receive like treatment and consideration."

WIN ONE-DAY REST.

Chicago, June 18.—Trade unionists in this state are urging the passage of a one-day-rest-in-seven law, but local milk wagon drivers concluded not to wait for the general assembly's uncertain action.

The employers raised the usual objections, but they changed their minds when they reviewed the solid line of employes.

The drivers are now working six days a week for the same wage they received for seven days.

TIMBER WORKERS ACTIVE.

Seattle, June 18.—Timber workers throughout the northwest are conducting a vigorous organizing campaign despite handicaps in the form of a company "union" and one big union theorists. The company "union," known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, is being discredited among timber workers, although the bosses are making frantic efforts to keep this wage-reduction aid alive.

REJECT OPEN COVENANTS.

Washington, June 18.—The theory of open covenants, so widely proclaimed in the closing days of the world war, was rejected by the senate rules committee. The occasion was Senator Harrison's resolution that treaties and nominations be considered in open session, except by a two-thirds vote of the senate.

URGE FARMER ALLIANCE.

Denver, June 18.—In his opening address to the annual convention of the A. F. of L., President Gompers urged a closer alliance between organized wage earners and farmers.

Steel Trust Enriched By Imaginary Freight

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 18.—Of all schemes evolved by the steel trust to fleece the people, its "Pittsburgh base" is entitled to front rank.

Under this system, if a contractor in Duluth, for instance, bought steel "T" beams at a Duluth steel mill, he would be charged the same price as charged by Pittsburgh steel mills although Duluth is but 60 miles from the trust-owned inexhaustible Mesaba iron ore range. In addition to this charge, he would pay an added cost equal to the freight charge of the steel from Pittsburgh to Duluth.

This charge on imaginery freight totals millions of dollars annually and increases with every freight increase that the railroads are permitted to charge.

Cheap production, nearness to raw material and markets for the finished product mean nothing to the public under this system.

For years the federal trade commission has considered complaints against "Pittsburgh base," but the dollars roll into the trust's coffers while the public is kept in the dark by those who insist that a lower living standard for the workers will cheapen production and bring prosperity.

TYPOS FAVOR ASSESSMENT.

Indianapolis, June 18.—The vote of the International Typographical union on the 10 per cent assessment referendum was 40,703 for to 11,499 against.

This means that financial aid is guaranteed organized printers now on strike to enforce a 44-hour week agreed to by employers two years ago. Associated with the printers are pressmen, bookbinders and stereotypers. The employers make no attempt to excuse their contract-breaking and are being supported by every anti-union influence to destroy organized labor in the printing industry. That this purpose is clear is shown by this statement in the bulletin of the Employing Printers of America—anti-union: "Let the men come back only when they decide to tear up their union cards and sign individual contracts."

The executive council of the International Typographical union has issued this statement:

"The fight is won, and this notwithstanding the support the employing printers are getting from persons and associations not connected with the printing industry. The great majority of offices affected are unable to operate. This condition will continue as long as the fight lasts, because it is not possible to secure competent help outside our ranks."

"LAW"-ABIDING EMPLOYERS.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, June 18.—"Law and order" was the slogan at the recent conference of organized Australian manufacturers.

R. R. Grundy, representing this state, moved that in the event of a strike "all members of the bodies involved be disfranchised." This sentiment was approved on the ground that if wage earners refuse to obey the laws they should not assist in framing laws. Later, H. V. McKay (Victoria) urged manufacturers to ignore arbitration courts created by the state. This statement was not objected to. One delegate declared that Justice Higgins of the federal arbitration court "ought to be extinguished."

S. F. Newlands (New South Wales) moved that the manufacturers subsidize anti-labor propaganda, which should consist of suitable moving pictures, exhibitions, pamphlets and cartoons. This was agreed to. A Tasmania delegate urged the formation of an all-Australian employers' federation.

"The proposed federation should act and not speak," he said. "The German employers organized 70,000 strikebreakers and the German government subsidized them. That is what we want in Australia—German methods."

MILK IS GOOD INVESTMENT.

New York, June 18.—City Health Commissioner Copeland says that the expense of maintaining hospitals, asylums and homes for the aged could be reduced 50 per cent by the prevention of malnutrition among school children. These children, he said, should drink not less than one and one-half pints of milk a day.

The medical man favors spending money on milk for children instead of waiting till these children have succumbed in after life to the ravages of diseases caused chiefly by undernourishment. These diseases, he said, have their origin in defective teeth, poor heart action, tuberculosis infection, adenoids, and eye and ear trouble, all occurring in childhood and most of them caused by malnutrition.

FARMERS ARE GOUGED.

New Orleans, June 18.—Truck farmers are awakening to their gouging by commission merchants. One farmer received 2 cents a bushel for sweet potatoes, and the consumer paid $2.50 a bushel.

He shipped 10 crates of sweet potatoes to a local commission house and was informed that the market price was 90 cents a bushel. The potatoes came to $9. Expenses deducted from that were: Express, $2.84; commission, 90 cents; drayage, $1.50; crates at 25 cents each, $2.50. This total of $8.74 left the farmer 26 cents, or a little over 2 cents a bushel.

JUDGE GARY'S DULL TALK.

Syracuse, N. Y., June 18.—The anti-union shop was praised by Judge Gary in his commencement address at Syracuse university. The steel trust magnate revamped every dull charge made against organized labor during the past 20 years. His plea not to "smother ambition" or "destroy incentive" will be interesting reading to his 12-hour employes who lack sufficient energy to read or think after their inhuman work day.

MUST HAVE WARRANT.

Portland, Ore., June 18.—No arrest for vagrancy without a warrant, rules Circuit Judge Morrow. The decision will hamper officious police who have been aiding employers by arresting strikers on this charge.

PRESENT LIVING STANDARDS ARE NOT BASED ON JUSTICE

Denver, June 18.—Ultimately, living standards must be related to social usefulness, says the A. F. of L. executive council, in discussing "Wages and the Cost of Living" in its annual report.

The executive council recommended that it be empowered to conduct an investigation of this question and that a report be made to the next convention.

"The practice of fixing wages solely on a basis of the cost of living," says the council, "is a violation of the whole philosophy in progress and civilization. Furthermore, it is a violation of sound economic theory and is utterly without logic or scientific support of any kind.

"What we find as a result of practice, so far as it has gone, is that there is a constant tendency under it to classify human beings and to standardize classes, each class having a right to a given quantity of various commodities. It is not difficult to understand that the ultimate development of such a policy must be ridiculous and fantastic; in fact, it already has become so in many cases.

"We are not prepared at this time to lay down in definite form a policy which we believe proper as a basis of wage measurement, but we are firmly convinced of the necessity of research and study in order that a principle may be found which will be scientifically sound, and to which, therefore, our industrial life will naturally adjust itself.

"American industrial development has reached a point where it must give to the workers a consideration that goes beyond the bare essentials of sustaining life. Hunger of the workers for those things which satisfy the diversified needs of human beings has, in the United States in the main, been satisfied, in so far as the elementals of physical existence are concerned. There is beyond that point, however, a hunger which can only be described as one which demands opportunity for a broadening sphere of mental and spiritual life.

"To measure the life possibilities of a highly civilized people in terms of yearly allowance, or so many pounds and yards of commodities, is a conception which the American labor movement can not tolerate, and which it must remove from the realm of practice. We realize fully that to substitute the present unscientific, unsound, unjust practice with one which shall meet all tests, requires deep study and much consultation. There must be laid down a principle that will endure. We must face the facts as they are, and carefully develop a scientific procedure, in so far as that is humanely possible.

"Ultimately, we feel, there must be found some method of relating standards of living to social usefulness, or production service, though under present industrial management this has not yet been found possible on any just basis.

"There are but two avenues leading to permanent higher standards of living for our people as a whole. One of these is the elimination of waste, either in the form of mismanagement or of undue exploitation and profiteering. The other is increased productivity. Both must be traveled simultaneously."

OIL MEN PROTEST.

Tulsa, Okla., June 18.—Oil men's associations in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Louisiana have forwarded a joint protest to Secretary of State Hughes against the United States government objecting to the new Mexican tax on crude oil when shipped from that country.

The oil men say that 80 per cent of this oil comes into the United States duty free, and that the same interests which are protesting against Mexico's export tax are vigorously opposing any attempt by congress to tax this oil, when it reaches the United States' boundary.

"The oil industry in the United States is 60 per cent shut down, and hundreds of thousands of men are out of employment," the oil men declare.

"These selfish interests absorb the markets of our country with cheaply produced and cheaply transported products from Mexico, upon which they pay no taxes to this country, and ask the government of the United States to aid them in avoiding taxation in Mexico. We most vigorously protest against the government of the United States interfering with the system of taxation on oil promulgated by the republic of Mexico or any other country so long as that system of taxation is levied equally against all foreigners."

ALLEN LAW IS UPHELD.

Topeka, Kan., June 18.—The state supreme court has upheld Governor Allen's "can't-strike" law and the decision of the Crawford county district court sentencing Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas Miners' union, to one year in jail for violating a court command to obey the law.

The decision of the supreme court was unanimous. It is declared that the law is "a reasonable and valid exercise of the police power of the state over the business of producing coal and does not impair liberty of contract or permit involuntary servitude contrary to the constitution of the United States."

The court made no distinction between a board created to control the "production, manufacture and distribution of food, clothing and fuel" and a human being.

The law empowers the industrial relations court to set wages for workers in these activities, and to penalize them if they refuse to work under these conditions. The supreme court holds that this is not involuntary servitude.

The decision will be appealed to the United States supreme court, if all state court processes fail.

OUT-OF-WORKS INCREASE.

Albany, N. Y., June 18.—Manufacturing operations in this state continued to decline from April to May, reports the New York state department of labor. The May decrease in employment for the manufacturing industries as a whole was 2 per cent. During the period from March, 1920, to May, 1921, employment in factories declined 27 per cent. This would indicate that the number of factory workers employed in the state in May was at least 400,000 less than in March, 1920. The May number of workers was slightly below that reported in January, 1915, when employment reached its lowest level during the depression of the winter of 1914-1915.

SOLDIERS WON'T BE USED.

Seattle, June 18.—The national guard will not be used in strikes, declared officers of the national guard in convention in this city.

President Short, of the state federation of labor, was given this assurance after he addressed the convention. Delegates told the trade unionist that the new form of organization of the guard precludes its use for any purpose other than national defense.

RAIL WORKERS WIN.

Chicago, June 18.—Organized railroad shop employes won their fight for negotiation of agreements with the railroads by system federations in a decision handed down by the United States railroad labor board. Several railroads have refused to negotiate with these federations and insist that each craft union be dealt with separately.

WINSLOW APPOINTED.

Philadelphia, June 18.—Charles ... Winslow has been appointed secretary of the Pennsylvania museum and school of industrial art. The appointee is well known to trade unionists because of his activity in vocational education and industrial training.

Until recently he was connected with the federal board for vocational education.

LAND NO LONGER CHEAP.

Amherst, Mass., June 18.—Fifty years ago there was land in abundance for all, and it could be had for the mere living on it for $2 and $3 an acre, said Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in a speech at the Massachusetts agricultural college.

"Today that land is selling at from $100 to $200 an acre," said the cabinet official. "Fifty years ago the young farmer who had the will to work, who had a good wife, and who had saved enough money to buy a team and a few simple implements, could move into the great west with almost certain assurance that after a time he could own his own farm and home. Today a capital equal to from $20,000 to $50,000 is required to carry on farming in the great surplus-producing states. The matter of financial credit, therefore, has become one of our most pressing problems.

"In one sense the farmer is the greatest speculator in the world, in that his business is subject to risks against which he has not yet learned how to insure. He is at the mercy of the weather. He can not control production, as can the manufacturer. He has nothing to say about the price, and, indeed, does not know until six months or a year after the work is done what his wages, as represented by the price he gets for his crops, will be.

"Hence the higher financial rewards of farming have been paid not for conscientious productive effort, but for shrewd speculative ingenuity, a decidedly bad system of economy."

SHERIFF IS ADVISED.

Raleigh, N. C., June 18.—In reply to the demand for troops, Governor Morrison notified an excited sheriff to have a lawyer inform him of his duty and his power.

Textile workers throughout the state are striking against wage reductions, and Sheriff Cochran, of Mecklenburg county, wired the governor that he could not maintain peace. In reply the governor said:

"It is your duty to have sufficient deputies to discharge the duties of your office, and you can summon for temporary service any citizen of your county, and force him, in the event of threatened riot, to serve. I advise that you consult an able lawyer at once and fully acquaint yourself with your duty and the power given you by law to discharge it.

"I will not hesitate to use the adjutant general's military force to aid in preserving the peace and protecting the legal rights of the citizens of any county, but it has too often occurred in the past in this state that the local authorities in vacillation and weakness failed to perform their clear duty, and thereby made necessary the use of state troops."

UN[illegible]LE TAX TANGLES.

Wi[illegible] June [illegible] "Teachers are c[illegible] the tax questi[illegible] serious of prese[illegible] says the bulletin [illegible] Federation of Teache[illegible]

"It is [illegible] to school problems [illegible] serve the public in [illegible] than by familiarizing [illegible] with the present [illegible] its failure to provide [illegible] the maintenance of [illegible] in keeping with [illegible]. The real sources of [illegible] practically untouched, [illegible] taxation must take [illegible] direction these reform[illegible] made, needs careful consideration [illegible] this let the teachers take their part."

FUR WORKERS GAIN.

Montreal, Quebec, June 18.—Organized fur workers have signed a 20-months' contract. The 44-hour week is guaranteed, all legal holidays and union conditions will be observed, and last year's wage rate continued.

San Francisco, June 18.—Fur workers in this city have defeated employers who attempted to re-establish the 48-hour week.

NO FREIGHT CUT.

New York, June 18.—Those business interests that have demanded wage reductions in the hope that lower freight rates would follow, will be disappointed at this announcement by the association of railway executives:

"Under existing conditions no general reduction in freight rates can be justified or made effective."

SECURE UNION SHOP.

Tacoma, Wash., June 18.—Organized painters have signed a union shop agreement with the Master Painters' association. Rates will be $1.25 a day.